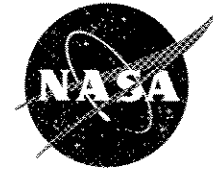


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 4, 2008

Reply to Attn of: Office of the General Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at two ATK  
Receptions at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Space Symposium on April 7 and  
April 9, 2008

Alliant Techsystems (ATK) will hold several receptions in conjunction with the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The National Space Symposium is the premier United States space policy and program forum for information and interaction on all sectors of space – civil, commercial, and national security. The annual conference is sponsored by the Space Foundation, an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The theme for this year's conference is: "Our expanding Universe . . . 50 Years of Space Exploration," and close to 8,000 people from around the world are expected to attend. ATK is a leading provider of advanced weapon and space systems.

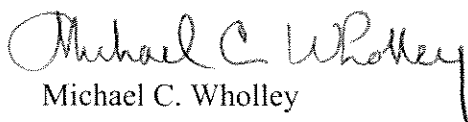
On April 7th, ATK will sponsor a reception during the fireworks display following the conference's opening ceremonies from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Gaylord Suite of the Broadmoor Hotel. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the opening of this year's conference. ATK will issue approximately 500 invitations to this reception and expects about 200 people to attend. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, ATK will sponsor a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Robert Trent Jones Room at the Broadmoor Hotel Golf Club. The purpose of this event is to celebrate fifty years of space exploration. ATK will issue approximately 1500 invitations and expects about 750 people to attend.

I find that these events meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). In both receptions, approximately one-fourth of the invitations will be issued to government and other Executive branch employees, Members of Congress and Congressional staff. Other attendees will include aerospace leaders from industry, academia, and non-profit organizations. The cost per person of light appetizers and beverages at each reception is approximately \$20 and will not constitute a meal. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I have determined that free attendance of NASA invitees is in the best interests of the Agency because it will further NASA programs and operations. These receptions will allow NASA employees the opportunity to build relationships and discuss accomplishments and progress in space-related matters with other attendees.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect ATK may accept an invitation for free attendance for themselves and their invited spouses or guests at either or both receptions to which they are invited. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect ATK, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

ATK plans to distribute mementos valued at less than \$10.00 at each reception. Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 CFR § 2635.204(a) which provides that employees may accept gifts for themselves (and family members) valued at no more than \$20 per occasion. NASA invitees are reminded not to exceed the \$50 cap on gifts from any one prohibited source in a calendar year.

  
Michael C. Wholley